

This is
the Feast

Preparing for
the Lord's Supper

Student Guide

Dean Nadasdy and Thomas Doyle

Contents

1. The Law and Giving Myself a Test	3
2. Grace and the Gospel	7
3. How God Gives Me Gifts	11
4. Real Presence	15
5. Meal of Forgiveness	19
6. Other Blessings Received in Holy Communion	22
7. Table Graces	25
8. Divine Worship	28

Edited by Edward Engelbrecht

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Session 1

The Law and Giving Myself a Test

Key Verse

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:28

Drama

If Mirrors Could Talk

(NARRATOR [N] stands Stage R. Three players [M1, M2, M3] stand Stage L, facing the audience, each holding a large mirror. GIRL stands Center Stage.)

N: Once there was a girl who had three mirrors. These were not ordinary mirrors. These mirrors talked. The girl loved the mirrors because they always said something that made her feel good. When she didn't like the way she looked, she went to her first mirror and asked,

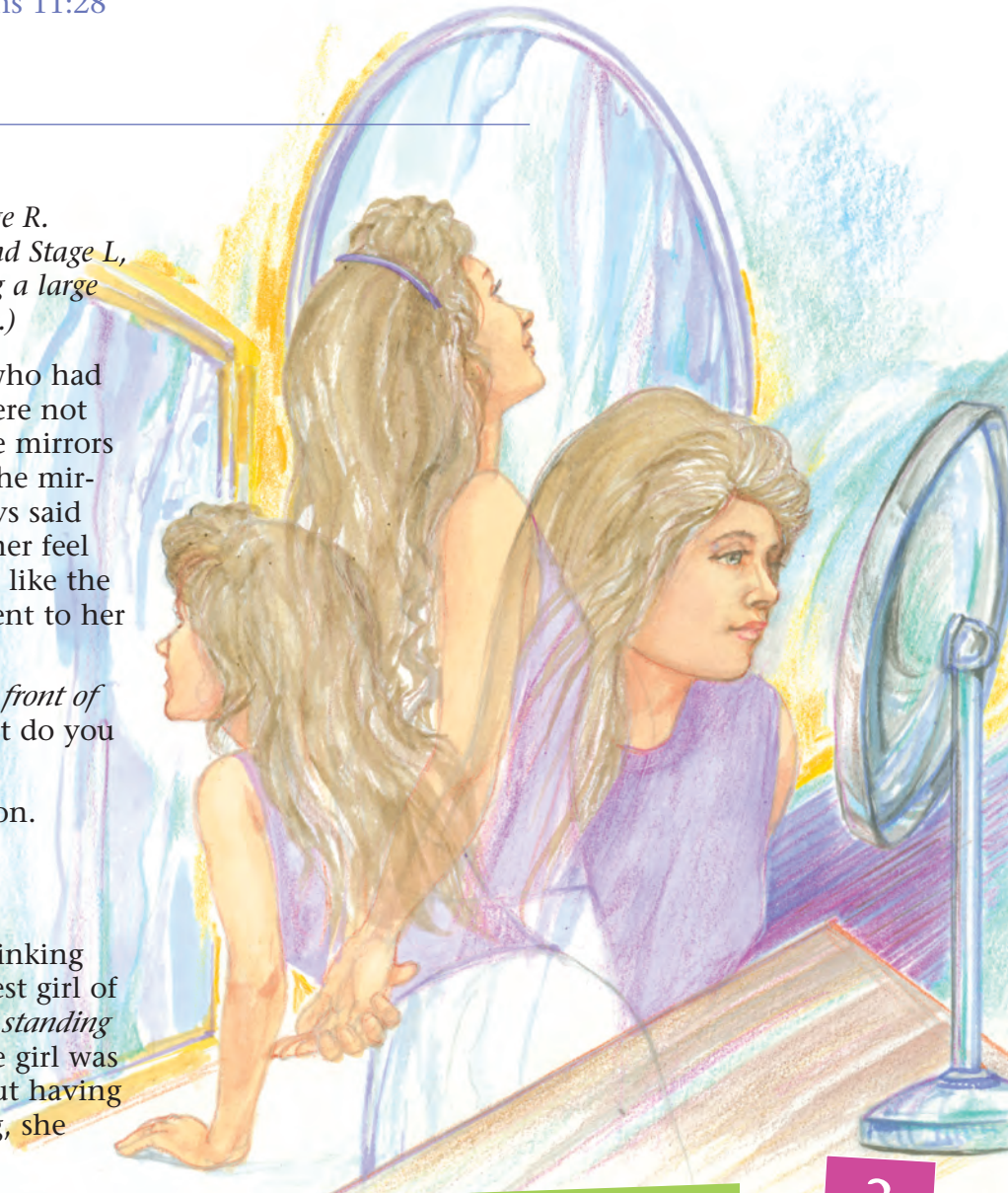
GIRL: (Moves to M1; stands in front of it) Tell me, mirror, what do you see?

M1: I see a very pretty person.

GIRL: Pretty, you say?

M1: The prettiest of all.

N: And the girl smiled, thinking herself to be the prettiest girl of all. (GIRL moves to M2, standing in front of it.) When the girl was feeling very guilty about having done something wrong, she said,



GIRL: I feel just terrible. I shouldn't have done it.

N: And she looked into her second mirror with all her guilt, and the mirror said,

M2: Don't feel bad. You're a good person.

GIRL: Good, you say?

M2: The very best of all.

N: And the girl smiled, thinking herself to be very good even though she had done something bad. (*GIRL moves to M3, standing in front of it.*) When the girl doubted herself, when she wondered if she could do what she had to do, she thought,

GIRL: I don't think I can do this. I am too weak. I'll never be able to do it.

N: She looked into her third mirror with all her doubt, and the mirror said,

M3: Yes, you can. You can do it. You're strong.

GIRL: Strong, you say?

M3: The strongest of all.

N: The girl loved her mirrors, all right. They made her feel pretty and good and strong. Yet something inside of her made her wonder if she could trust these mirrors that always told her what she wanted to hear. (*GIRL moves to M1.*)

M1: The prettiest. (*GIRL moves to M2.*)

M2: The best. (*GIRL moves to M3.*)

M3: The strongest.

N: She wondered about the mirrors that talked and if they could be trusted.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think the girl loved her mirrors?
2. Why do you think she wondered if they could be trusted?
3. What's wrong with only looking at the good in us and never seeing the bad?
4. How do you know if you've done something wrong?

Looking for Answers

1. Describe the three kinds of Law God gives in the Bible. How is each important?
Curb—1 Timothy 1:9

Mirror—Romans 3:20

Rule—Psalm 119:105
2. Because God is holy and just, what does He require of every person? Read Matthew 5:48. Evaluate how well you have lived up to God's standard.
3. If honest, what must we confess? See 1 John 1:8.
4. What do we deserve because of our sin? Read Romans 3:23.
5. What does God teach us in His Word concerning sin?
 - a. 1 John 3:4
 - b. Psalm 51:5
 - c. Romans 8:7
 - d. Galatians 5:19–21
6. Why is using the Law as a mirror so important as we prepare to receive the Lord's Supper?
7. What does using the Law as a mirror show me about myself?
8. What do you conclude about yourself as you look into the mirror of God's Law?
9. Considering your conclusion, why is the Lord's Supper important for you to receive? See Matthew 26:26–28.

What Do You See?



Moses Receives the Tablets from the Lord by Marc Chagall

Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY

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Taking It Home

Spend at least 10 minutes discussing with a parent the following questions:

1. How is God's Law important to you?
2. How do you prepare for the Lord's Supper?
3. What do you receive from God when you eat His body and drink His blood in the Lord's Supper?
4. Share a time when going to the Lord's Supper was especially important to you.

Before the next session, review together questions 74–85 in Luther's Small Catechism. This will provide you an opportunity to review what God's Word says about His Law and prepare you to study what God's Word has to say about His Gospel.

Session 3

How God Gives Me Gifts

Key Verse

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:26–27

Drama

Come, Lord Jesus

(MOM, DAD, JEFF, and ANN sit Center Stage at a table, facing the audience. The table may be set for dinner.)

DAD: Looks great, honey. So who would like to say grace?

ANN: I'll go, Dad.

DAD: Great, Ann.

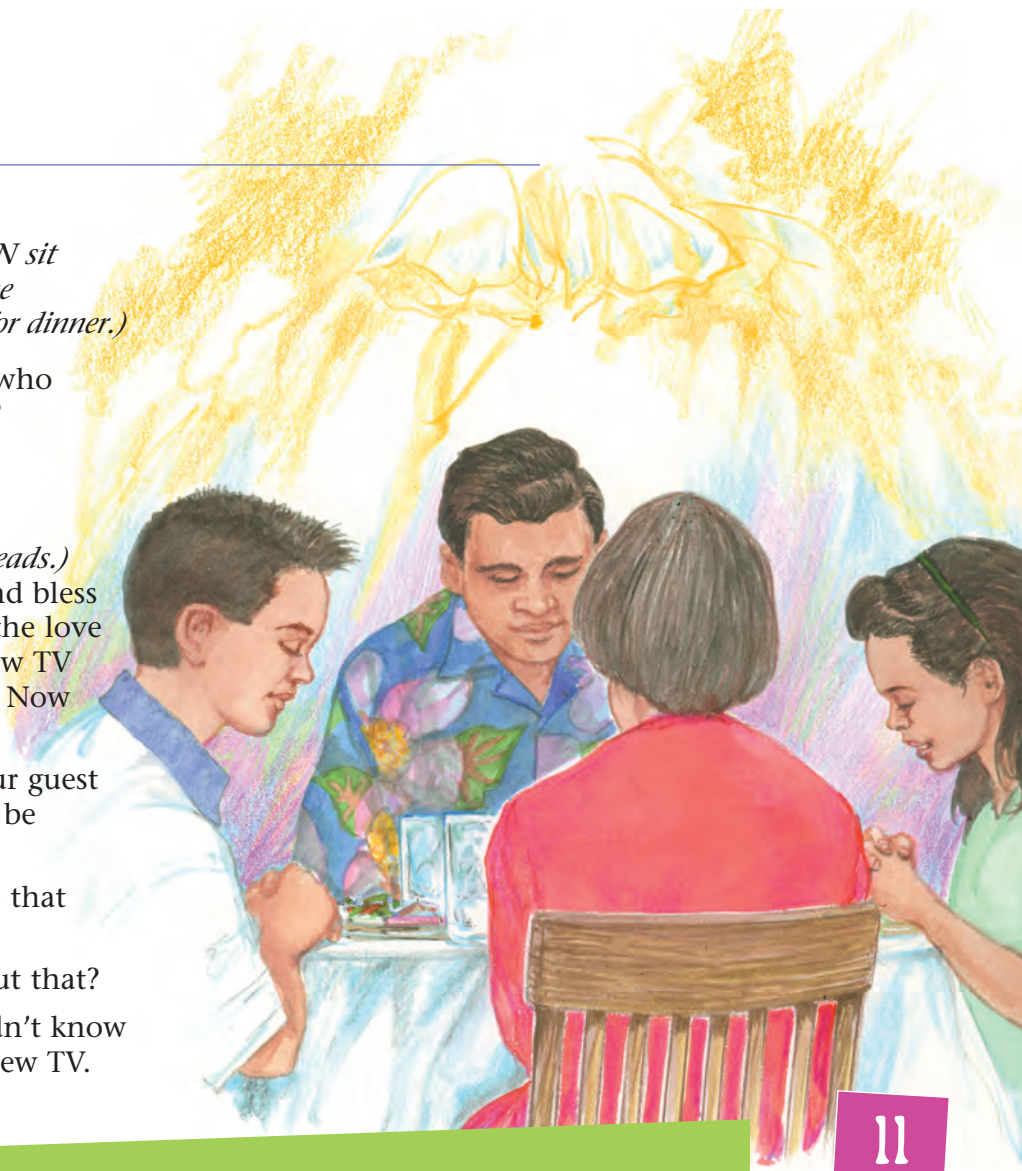
ANN: Let us pray. *(ALL bow heads.)*
Bless this food, Lord, and bless our family. Thanks for the love we share and for the new TV you're going to give us. Now hear us as we pray:

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.

JEFF: Way to go, Annie. I like that part about the TV.

DAD: You want to tell us about that?

MOM: Yes, Annie, please. I didn't know we were looking for a new TV.



ANN: Are you kidding, Mom? Have you seen the picture lately? And we only have a 27-inch set. Everybody I know has at least a 32-incher.

JEFF: Little Annie here knows her TVs.

MOM: So you thought you'd mention it in your prayer? You thought you'd thank God for it before you even had it?

ANN: I just thought if I got God listening . . .

JEFF: He might start making things happen. I like that!

ANN: Which makes me wonder, Mom and Dad—why do we always say, “Come, Lord Jesus”?

DAD: You're changing the subject, Annie.

ANN: No, really, doesn't Jesus come anyway? Isn't He “wherever . . .”—how does it go?

JEFF: “Wherever two or three are gathered.”

ANN: Yeah, that's it. Doesn't He just come to every meal?

MOM: He does, but we say, “Come, Lord Jesus,” to let Him know

how much we love Him, how much we'd be honored to have Him join us again.

DAD: Sort of like when we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” He comes without our prayer, but we want Him to know that we'd be thrilled to have Him come right among us.

JEFF: Like in church—with the sermon. He comes there.

ANN: And the Lord's Supper. He comes there too.

DAD: Exactly.

ANN: So what about TVs? What about 32-inch TVs?

MOM: That may be another story, young lady.

DAD: We'll have to leave that one to God.

JEFF: You gotta admit, though, it was a nice try.

Discuss:

1. Why do meals and prayers seem to go together in so many families?
2. What does saying the “Come, Lord Jesus” prayer before a meal mean to you?

Looking for Answers

1. How does God offer the gift of His forgiveness?

a. Romans 1:16

b. John 3:16

c. Ephesians 1:7

How God Gives Me Gifts

2. The written and spoken Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments are the means of grace.
 - a. How does the Bible describe the spoken and written Word of God? Read Luke 24:27 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

 - b. How does the Bible describe the Sacraments? Read Acts 2:38 and 1 Corinthians 10:16.

3. What does God provide to us in His Sacraments?
 - a. Acts 22:16

 - b. Matthew 26:28

4. Besides forgiveness, what other blessings does God give us in Baptism?
 - a. Titus 3:5

 - b. John 3:5

- c. Romans 6:4

- d. Galatians 3:26

- e. 1 John 3:1

5. When Jesus began (instituted) the Lord's Supper, He was celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples.
 - a. What did people remember when they celebrated the Passover? Skim Exodus 12–14.

 - b. What do we remember when we receive the Lord's Supper? Read 1 Corinthians 11:26.

6. Compare and contrast the Passover meal and the Lord's Supper.

What Do You See?



The Baptism of Christ by Giovanni Bellini
 Sistine Chapel, Vatican, Rome, Italy/Canali PhotoBank, Milan/Superstock

Taking It Home

Spend at least 10 minutes with a parent discussing the following questions:

1. What traditions does our family have to celebrate holidays and special days?
2. What do you remember about my Baptism day?
3. What does it mean to you when you receive the Lord's Supper?
4. How does the Lord's Supper strengthen us as a family?

Before the next session, review the questions and answers from the Sacrament of Holy Baptism section of Luther's Small Catechism.